

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

OMB-01 IO-11 /074 W

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R 220945Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3542

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FOLNG SENT NEW DELHI INFO CALCUTTA AND BOMBAY FROM MADRAS
DTD JAN 21.

QUOTE: MADRAS 0134

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION LEADERS ATTACK EMERGENCY

1. ONE OF OUR POLITICAL ASSISTANTS ATTENDED A PUBLIC MEETING
LAST NIGHT IN CONNECTION WITH THE UNVEILING OF A STATUS OF
KAMARAJ, WHICH WAS PERFORMED BY GUJARAT CHIEF MINISTER BABUBHAI
PATEL. CHIEF MINISTER KARUNANIDHI PRESIDED. FOLLOWING ARE SOME
OF THE REMARKS MADE BY VARIOUS SPEAKERS WHICH WERE NOT RPT NOT
REPORTED IN PRESS ACCOUNTS OF THE EVENT.

2. BABUBHAI PATEL SAID: "AFTER 27 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE WE ARE

NOW IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION WHERE WE ARE DEVOID OF CIVIL LIB-
ERTIES. IN THE GRIM SITUATION OF TODAY THERE ARE ONLY TWO RAYS
OF HOPE - TAMIL NADU AND GUJARAT. IN THESE TWO STATES THE BANNER
OF FREEDOM IS STILL FLYING ALOFT. THESE TWO STATES ARE LIKE OASES
IN A DESERT. HERE AT LEAST THERE IS FREEDOM TO HOLD MEETINGS AND FRE-
EDOM TO SPEAK PUBLICLY AGAINST THE CONGRESS (R) RULE.
BUT THE FUNCTIONING OF THESE TWO NON-CONGRESS (R) STATES IS NOT

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TOLERATED BY THE CENTER. CENSORSHIP OF NEWS IN GAJARAT IS HIGHLY

PARTIAL. SOME DAYS AGO I MADE A STATEMENT IN GUJARAT STATE ASSEMBLY CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE FOR MAINTAINING PEACE. BUT THIS WAS NOT ALLOWED TO BE PUBLISHED BY THE CENSORING AUTHORITIES BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, EVERY STUPID STATEMENT MADE BY CONGRESS (R) LEADERS FINDS FULL DISPLAY IN THE NEWSPAPERS. ALL INDIA RADIO ALSO HAS BECOME VERY PARTIAL. ON OCTOBER 31, 1975 I WANTED TO SPEAK ON THE AIR ABOUT LATE SARDAR PATEL IN CONNECTION WITH HIS BIRTH CENTENARY. BUT I WAS NOT GIVEN PERMISSION. IS THIS DEMOCRACY? WHEN OUR LEADERS FOUGHT FOR FREEDOM THEY DID NOT WANT A WHITE RULER TO BE REPLACED BY A BROWN RULER...WE SHOULD RESTORE DEMOCRACY IN INDIA AND IT IS FOR THIS THAT WE ARE NOW STRUGGLING."

3. CPM LEADER P. RAMAMURTHY SAID: "KAMARAJ DID NOT BECOME A LEADER OVERNIGHT AS SOMEBODY IS BEING GROOMED TO BECOME A LEADER NOW* HE DID NOT BECOME A LEADER AS THE SON OF A BIG PERSON* BUT KAMARAJ BECAME A LEADER BY HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE POOR... NOW SOME CONGRESS (R) LEADERS ARE ALLEGING THAT THERE ARE CIA AGENTS IN INDIA, BUT WHO HELPED THE US? IT IS MRS GANDHI'S CONGRESS PARTY. MRS GANDHI'S GOVERNMENT DEVALUED THE INDIAN RUPEE SOME YEARS AGO JUST TO GET THE US AID. THE PRIME MINISTER AND HER MINISTERIAL COLLEAGUES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR INVITING US MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS TO INDIA...NOW CONGRESS (R) LEADERS SAY THEY ARE ANTI-FASCIST. BUT IT IS MRS GANDHI WHO IS TREADING THE PATH OF FASCISM BY IMPOSING DICTATORSHIP. CIVIL LIBERTIES ARE CURBED, CENSORSHIP IS RIGID AND DISCRIMINATORY AND OPPOSITION PARTIES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO FUNCTION FREELY. WHERE IS FREEDOM IN THE COUNTRY TODAY?... THE PRIME MINISTER AND OTHERS CLAIM THAT THE EMERGENCY HAS BROUGHT DISCIPLINE. IF DISCIPLINE HAS COME, THEN WHY CONTINUE EMERGENCY? BUT EMERGENCY HAS NOT BROUGHT DISCIPLINE EVEN TO CONGRESS (R) PARTY. LOOK AT UTTAR PRADESH. THE BAHUGUNA MINISTRY FELL BECAUSE OF IN-FIGHTING IN THE CONGRESS (R)... THIS KIND OF ONE-PARTY DICTATORSHIP SHOULD NOT BE TOLERATED. DEMOCRACY SHOULD BE RESTORED IN THE COUNTRY. LET US BE PREPARED TO FIGHT FOR ACHIEVING THIS END. LET THE PEOPLE OF TAMIL NADU JOIN TOGETHER AND COME FORWARD TO END THIS DICTATORSHIP."

4. BLD LEADER DR SANTHOSHAM SAID: "DEMOCRACY IS BEING SLAUGHTERED IN INDIA AND IT IS TIME WE DID SOMETHING TO END THIS."

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5. TNCC(O) SECRETARY DHANDAYDHAPANI SAID: "TIRUCHI CONFERENCE OF TNCC-O (ANTI-MERGER GROUP) WAS A BIG SUCCESS. ONE OF OUR IMPORTANT DECISIONS TWEN#THERE WAS TO ORGANIZE A STIR ON FEBRUARY 23 TO DEMW#HOLDING OF ELECTIONS ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE.

ON THAT DAY CONGRESS (O) MEMBERS ALL OVER TAMIL NADU WILL COME FORWARD LIKE WAVES DEMANDING TO HOLD ELECTIONS. NEXT COURSE OF ACTION WILL BE MADE KNOWN LATER. THIS IMPORTANT DECISION WAS

CENSORED."

6. CHIEF MINISTER KARUNANIDHI SAID: "CENSORSHIP IN TAMIL NADU ALSO IS VERY DISCRIMINATORY. EVEN MY STATEMENTS ARE NOT PUBLISHED FULLY SEVERAL TIMES. MY REPLY TO SIDDARTHA SHANKAR RAY'S CRIT-ISISM WAS NOT ALLOWED TO BE FULLY PUBLISHED. IT IS NOT A DEMOCRACY IF OPPOSITION PARTIES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO FUNCTION FREELY AS IVOR JENNINGS SAID...HOWEVER, IN THE PRESENT SITUATION, RECENTLY SOME HOPE IS EMERGING. KASHMIR SHEIK ABDULLA HAS CALLED FOR RESTORATION OF NORMALCY. THE DECISION TAKEN AT THE ALL-INDIA ACHARYA SAMMELAN AT PAUNAR ALSO IS A WELCOME TREND."

EAVES UNQUOTE

SCHNEIDER

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OPPOSITION PARTIES, POLITICAL LEADERS, SPEECHES, POLITICAL FREEDOM, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JAN 1976
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NEWDE01094
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760025-0540
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760132/aaaabbmh.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 APR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <13 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OPPOSITION LEADERS ATTACK EMERGENCY
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006